

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

~~[4]~~ **1. (Currently Amended)** An engine-driven work machine comprising a frame (2) formed from a base frame (2a) and a pair of left and right side frames (2b, 2b) sharing left and right side sections of the base frame (2a), a wheel (83) axially supported on the base frame (2a) so that the wheel (83) can rotate in the fore-and-aft direction of the frame (2), equipment, including an engine (3) and a work machine (4) driven thereby, supported on the base frame (2a), and a moving handle (86) provided on an end part in the fore-and-aft direction of the frame (2),

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the moving handle (86) is formed from a pair of left and right handle bars (88, 88) having a handle grip (93) at the extremity, and a cross member (89) integrally connecting middle parts of the handle bars (88, 88) to each other, and the two handle bars (88, 88) are mounted in upper parts of the side frames (2b, 2b) so that the two handle bars (88, 88) can pivot between a working position (A) in which the two handle bars (88, 88) protrude from the frame (2) and a storage position (B) in which, with the handle grip (93) facing downward, the handle bars (88, 88) in cooperation with the cross member (89) function as a bumper, and

wherein the frame has an open mouth defined by the base frame and pair of left and right side frames at the end part in the fore-and-aft direction of the frame, the open mouth being closed when the handle bars are pivoted to the storage position.

[2] 2. **(Currently Amended)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 1, wherein when the moving handle (86) is in the storage position (B), an end part of the base frame (2a) protruding outward relative to the equipment abuts against the handle bars (88, 88).

[3] 3. **(Currently Amended)** The engine-driven work machine according to either Claim 1 or 2, wherein an electrical component (53, 55) for the engine (3) and the work machine (4) is mounted on the frame (2) so that the electrical component (53, 55) is protected by the moving handle (86) in the storage position (B).

[4] 4. **(Currently Amended)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 2, wherein a control box (34) is mounted on the base frame (2a) and end parts, in the fore-and-aft direction, of the two side frames (2b, 2b) so that the control box (34) is protected by the moving handle (86) in the storage position (B), the control box (34) housing and holding an electrical component (53, 55) for the engine (3) and the work machine (4).

[5] 5. **(Currently Amended)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 1, wherein the moving handle (86) is mounted on a handle bracket (87) fixedly provided on an upper part of the frame (2) so that the handle (86) can pivot between a the working position (A) in which the handle (86) protrudes from the frame (2) and a the storage position (B) in which the handle grip (93) faces downward, and a lock mechanism (104) is provided between the handle bracket (87) and the moving handle (86), the lock mechanism (104) automatically locking the handle (86) at the working position (A) when the handle (86) is pivoted to the working position (A).

[6] 6. (Currently Amended) The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 5, wherein the lock mechanism (101) comprises an operating lever (103) axially supported on the moving handle (86) so as to pivot between a locked position (L) and an unlocked position (U), a latching member (105) provided on the operating lever (103), a latching groove (106) provided on the handle bracket (87), the latching member (105) engaging with and disengaging from the latching groove (106) accompanying the operating lever (103) pivoting to the locked position (L) and the unlocked position (U), and a lock spring (107) urging the operating lever (103) in the locked position (L) direction.

[7] 7. (Currently Amended) The engine-driven work machine according to either Claim 5 or 6, wherein a damper (97) is provided between the handle bracket (87) and the moving handle (86), the damper (97) having a cushion member (99) that undergoes elastic deformation between a point immediately before the handle (86) reaches the working position (A) and a point when the handle (86) reaches the working position (A).

[8] 8. (Currently Amended) The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 7, wherein the damper (97) is formed from the cushion member (99), which is mounted on one of the handle bracket (87) and the moving handle (86), and a bush (100) fitted around the outer periphery of the cushion member (99), the bush (100) being pressed by the other one of the handle bracket (87) and the moving handle (86) to thus elastically deform the cushion member (99) between a point immediately before the moving handle (86) reaches the working position (A) and a point when the handle (86) reaches the working position (A).

9. **(New)** An engine-driven work machine comprising a frame formed from a base frame and a pair of left and right side frames sharing left and right side sections of the base frame, a wheel axially supported on the base frame so that the wheel can rotate in the fore-and-aft direction of the frame, equipment, including an engine and a work machine driven thereby, supported on the base frame, and a moving handle provided on an end part in the fore-and-aft direction of the frame,

wherein the moving handle is formed from a pair of left and right handle bars having a handle grip at the extremity, and a cross member integrally connecting middle parts of the handle bars to each other, and the two handle bars are mounted in upper parts of the side frames so that the two handle bars can pivot between a working position (A) in which the two handle bars protrude from the frame and a storage position (B) in which, with the handle grip facing downward, the handle bars in cooperation with the cross member function as a bumper, and

wherein the moving handle is mounted on a handle bracket fixedly provided on an upper part of the frame so that the handle can pivot between the working position (A) in which the handle protrudes from the frame and the storage position (B) in which the handle grip faces downward, and a lock mechanism is provided between the handle bracket and the moving handle, the lock mechanism automatically locking the handle at the working position (A) when the handle is pivoted to the working position (A).

10. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 9, wherein when the moving handle is in the storage position (B), an end part of the base frame protruding outward relative to the equipment abuts against the handle bars.

11. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 9, wherein an electrical component for the engine and the work machine is mounted on the frame so that the electrical component is protected by the moving handle in the storage position (B).

12. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 10, wherein a control box is mounted on the base frame and end parts, in the fore-and-aft direction, of the two side frames so that the control box is protected by the moving handle in the storage position (B), the control box housing and holding an electrical component for the engine and the work machine.

13. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 9, wherein the lock mechanism comprises an operating lever axially supported on the moving handle so as to pivot between a locked position (L) and an unlocked position (U), a latching member provided on the operating lever, a latching groove provided on the handle bracket, the latching member engaging with and disengaging from the latching groove accompanying the operating lever pivoting to the locked position (L) and the unlocked position (U), and a lock spring urging the operating lever in the locked position (L) direction.

14. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 13, wherein a damper is provided between the handle bracket and the moving handle, the damper having a cushion member that undergoes elastic deformation between a point immediately before the handle reaches the working position (A) and a point when the handle reaches the working position (A).

15. **(New)** The engine-driven work machine according to Claim 14, wherein the damper is formed from the cushion member, which is mounted on one of the handle bracket and the moving handle, and a bush fitted around the outer periphery of the cushion member, the bush being pressed by the other one of the handle bracket and the moving handle to thus elastically deform the cushion member between a point immediately before the moving handle reaches the working position (A) and a point when the handle reaches the working position (A).